

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Examiner's Amendment***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christian Fischer on 17 September 2008.

This application has been amended as follows:

**NOTE:** Please refer to the claim amendments presented on "**Applicant Summary of Interview with Examiner**" filed on 9/22/2008 by Applicant in response to the phone interview on 9/17/2008.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 12, 14 – 22 and 24 – 48 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations recited in claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 35 and 45 (& associated dependent claims).

The present invention is directed to a method for producing a secure key, the method comprises receiving a plurality of input keys comprising a first input key, a second input key and

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a third input key; generating a first output key based on said plurality of input keys comprising said first input key, said second input key and said third input key. The closest prior arts on the record, either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention of (1) generating a first output key based on said plurality of input keys, wherein said first output key is unique and differs from at least one of said plurality of input keys, and said one of said plurality of input keys is a key variation comprising a device identity; and continuing said generating of said first output key via a modified at least one of one of said plurality of input keys, until said first output key differs from at least one of said plurality of input keys, or (2) a system for producing a secure key, the system comprises a mapper; a scrambler coupled to said mapper; a masker coupled to said mapper; a key generator coupled to said scrambler; and an XOR operator coupled to said masker and said scrambler.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Longbit Chai/

Longbit Chai Ph.D.  
Primary Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2431  
10/1/2008